REMARKS

Claims 18-20 are pending in this application. In the Office Action dated March 15, 2006, the Examiner withdrew all his previous rejections but rejected claims 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention, due to numerous errors in the claims. The Examiner indicated that claims 18-20 would be allowed if they are amended to overcome these rejections.

In response, Applicants have added letters to claim 18 identifying each step of the claimed process to clarify that the sub steps within steps (a) and (b) are the steps by which each of the steps (a) and (b) are performed, and it is now clear that the phrases in lines 6 and 13 that the Examiner found unclear are merely further recitations of the same elements identified immediately above in steps (a) and (b). Applicants have also made numerous amendments to claims 18-20 to correct the errors in those claims pointed out by the Examiner, as well as a few noticed by Applicants. Applicants now request that these rejections be withdrawn and that claims 18-20 be passed to allowance.

Conclusion

If, upon review, the Examiner is unable to issue an immediate Notice of Allowance for claims 18-20, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney in order to resolve any outstanding issues and advance the prosecution of the case. An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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